

THE LIBERAL

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28th, 1933

UNPAID TAXES

The financial statement for Richmond Hill is very encouraging and shows a very substantial improvement and is exceptionally good in comparison to many other municipalities. The report, however, would be much better were it not for the large amount of unpaid taxes. The statement was made at nomination that approximately twenty per cent of the 1933 levy is still unpaid. This condition is typical of practically every municipality in Ontario and many are far worse than Richmond Hill.

The most disquieting feature in the municipal field all over Canada is the phenomenal increase in tax arrears according to a report issued by the Ontario Committee on Economy in Public Finance recently in session in Toronto. Assuming that the tax collection administration has been efficient the Committee deduces that these mounting tax arrears can only mean inability of the people to pay, and either that municipalities have not reduced their expenditures, or have reduced them insufficiently, while the revenue of the citizens, out of which taxation is paid, has shrunk continuously for some years.

The other outstanding feature of the municipal field is the increase in unemployment relief expenditures which in some municipalities the Committee finds, has been accompanied by the disturbing factor of the issue of debentures to meet such expenditures in whole or in part.

Considering these matters to be of such paramount importance that they should have the immediate attention of committees in all municipalities throughout Ontario under the auspices of the Boards of Trade and Chambers of Commerce or working in close co-operation with them, the Committee unanimously and most strongly recommended that such local committees should make studies showing the expenditure, taxation, tax collections, and tax arrears for each year since 1927. Studies based on these figures would, it is believed, bring out the facts and could be made the bases for representations to local administrations to reduce expenditures and taxation sufficiently to halt the increase in tax arrears—demands for real reductions, not reductions effected by borrowing money for purposes which will leave no tangible assets behind. In addition, the Committee takes the view that in these times municipalities should limit their current appropriations to the cash revenue available.

The Ontario Committee further recommends that local committees establish co-operative relations with all local spending bodies to the end that programmes of economy may be set up and carried out, and further, that public opinion be educated to support such spending bodies in any economy programmes that may be adopted.

The Ontario Committee is in full accord with the policy of providing work in place of direct relief wherever possible, but emphasizes the necessity for the greatest care being exercised in the selection of works for relief purposes. In this connection and in view of the provincial and municipal work programmes now under way and that the Prime Minister of Canada has announced a Federal construction programme will be undertaken next Spring, it recommends—

1. That the local Boards and Chambers support the Governments of Canada and the Province of Ontario in their efforts to reduce governmental expenditures by refraining from petitioning the Governments or supporting petitions for the expenditure of public funds unless the proposed undertakings for which public debt will be incurred will be either (a) self supporting, or (b) are absolutely necessary to effect economy in operation, or (c) are for the general benefit of Canada or the Province of Ontario in the economic development of national resources.

2. That the local Boards and Chambers advise their local Members of Parliament and of the Ontario Legislature of their adoption of such a policy and encourage the Members to oppose in Parliament and the Legislature and throughout their constituencies the expenditure of public funds which cannot be fully justified on the aforementioned grounds.

3. That the local Boards and Chambers use every means at their command to educate public opinion in their respective communities to strongly support the Federal and Provincial Governments in their economy programmes.

4. That the local Boards and Chambers endeavour to secure the adoption by their Municipal Councils of a policy with respect to civic works similar to the foregoing and that such works should not be undertaken by any municipality be such as to involve the borrowing of money at a high rate of interest.

The foregoing alternative work classifications provide a fairly wide range, but careful investigation should be made to ensure that any proposed undertakings really do come within these classifications. They apply solely to public works and not to private construction which should be fully encouraged. The most effective encouragement to private construction would be a decrease in taxation.

An Advisory Committee, which will be available to the local committees to advise with respect to their municipal finance programmes, also in connection with the organization of local committees where such do not now exist, is being planned by the Ontario Committee.

The Committee places strong emphasis on the great need for the closest scrutiny of municipal expenditures if tax arrears are to be halted and taxation reduced more in keeping with the ability of business and the citizens generally to pay. It points out that a properly balanced budget whether in private business or governmental—Municipal, Provincial or Federal—is the first essential step towards economic recovery.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

May all the members of the family of "The Liberal" readers enjoy a large measure of health, happiness, success and prosperity in the coming year is our sincere wish. We all join in the hope that the dark clouds of economic depression with their accompanying distress and want may soon disappear and that the people of this community in common with the people throughout this great land may soon again bask in the warm sunlight of more prosperous days.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

For all those interested in horticulture we are approaching the planning season. While trees and shrubs are cold in their nakedness and perennial and biennial plants sleep beneath earth's white mantle, it is necessary to plan for the days, not so far distant when the earth awakens with the unfolding glory of spring. Seed catalogues days will soon be here. Those intriguing booklets that seem to create in everyone a desire to have a garden will soon be arriving in every home. As we pour over their contents and make our plans for the garden beautiful, so great becomes our enthusiasm that we are even unmindful of former failures and courageously we plan again to produce those beautiful creations, so artfully pictured in the catalogues.

The most experienced gardener, however, soon learns that he cannot guarantee results. As he masters one difficulty, another occurs. So unlimited are the varying conditions of nature with which the gardener works that he is never master of all, and so perhaps more than most artisans the gardener seeks to know the experience and advice of others that he may learn from the mistakes of others as well as his own. To meet this need as well as other needs which I shall discuss later, the government of Ontario many years ago fostered the organization of Horticultural Societies throughout the province. The Richmond Hill Society was organized in 1914. What it has accomplished in a public way by way of village beautification is evident for all to see. What it has accomplished in the gardens and orchards of its members is not evident but is just as real. Through the co-operation of members and the government we are enabled to obtain from time to time experts who give us light on our difficulties and information about new methods and varieties, and through the agency of pictures, fire our imaginations with inspiration to attempt better and greater things. By providing flower shows and home ground and garden competitions both for adults and children a healthy competition stimulates greater effort and the acquirement of more and newer varieties of both flowers, fruits, shrubs and vegetables. By the co-operation of the members we are able to spray our fruits and thus save much of it from insect and disease injury.

No agency in our village offers a service that can be used by a greater number, and no agency provides more for the time and money expended in membership and attendance at meetings and shows. It is a society whose service reaches across the entire community; and yet the work of this important organization is left to all too few people. It is not fair to the community nor to the few who do the work that it should be so. Such an important organization deserves the support of the whole community not alone by membership but by active participation in its work. The annual meeting of the society at which a full report of the past year's work will be given and officers elected for the coming year will be held some time during early January. I appeal to all citizens to attend this meeting and see that the officers you want are elected, so that the society may not only continue but improve its service to you and to the community. Please watch for announcement of the date of the annual meeting in the Liberal and then please attend.

PAUL E. ANGLE,
President

ELDER NEWS

Between the snow and ice the roads are in a rather bad condition.

A good program was enjoyed by all who attended the S.S. Xmas concert at Knox on Saturday evening. Santa Claus was also very generous.

Among those who were entertained over the festive season were Mr. Ralph Oldfield, Kitchener, at the home of his parents; Mr. W. D. Laurie, O.A.C. Guelph, at his home; Mr. and Mrs. T. Harper, Newmarket, at Mr. and Mrs. W. King's; Mr. and Mrs. W. Neal and family, Richmond Hill, at Mr. D. A. McCallum's. The McClure and Hostrauser families at Mr. Fred. Hostrausers of Woodhill; Mr. and Mrs. E. Gawland, Brampton, at Mr. and Mrs. Elliott's; Mr. W. Bagg and Mrs. Millings at Mr. Albert Bagg's, Malton; the Nattress family at Mr. Mayhew's, Woodbridge and Mrs. McLaughlin, Montreal, at Mr. Black's, Nashville.

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MAPLE

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Robeson and baby Douglas with friends from Athens, Gananoque and Hamilton motored here on Saturday to spend Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. C. Robeson. On Monday evening they were joined by Rev. Geo. Coulter and family and Howard Atkinson of Richmond Hill, Rev. A. M. Partridge and family, Marjorie Ingram and T. McCormack of Maple, and Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Hoiles of Hope. A delightful evening was spent by all. Mr. Chas. Robeson acted as chairman and a program of solos, guitar, violin and piano selections, readings and congratulatory addresses was given. After prayer by Rev. A. M. Partridge, refreshments were served and the party broke up, all thanking Mr. and Mrs. Robeson for their hospitality and expressing wishes for happiness in the new year. Later Charlie left at midnight to motor home but before he arrived a telephone message was received by Mr. Robeson that his house and bakery and all that they contained were destroyed by fire.

Mrs. L. Jackson and Mr. and Mrs. Clarke Farr of Weston spent Christmas day at Mr. J. H. Jackson's.

Way Back in the Liberal Files

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

From Our Issue of Dec. 22nd, 1898
There was a good attendance at the rink Monday evening, but the mild weather which followed will put a stop to skating for a few days at least.

Mr. Harry Sanderson while playing hockey in the rink Friday evening, allowed his eye to come in contact with another player's elbow, resulting in a closed optic for the former.

Rev. Geo. McCulloch, who has been a faithful Pastor in the Methodist Church here for the past two and a half years, has received a call from the Newmarket congregation. Mr. McCulloch will accept, subject to approval of the Stationing Committee.

We have received a copy of The L'Appelle Progress, which has recently changed hands. This weekly is now published by Mr. Roscoe E. Law, formerly of this Village. We wish Mr. Law every success in his new venture.

Mrs. Soules, mother of the late George Soules of this Village, died at the home of her son-in-law, Mr. B. Williams, 2nd Con. King, on Tuesday morning. Deceased was interred in the Richmond Hill cemetery yesterday afternoon.

The Richmond Hill Hockey Club has begun practice with increased membership and great hopes of success for this season. Matches have been arranged with Harbord Collegiate, The Meteors and the Athletics of Toronto. Tickets of membership can be procured from the committee, players' ticket 40 cents, non-players 25 cent, the same admitting to all matches. The club wish to thank the Reeve for his kind donation.

The following curlers were on Saturday evening selected to play in the President vs. Vice-President match: President, W. T. Storey, W. H. Pugsley, J. Palmer, F. McConaghy, W. A. Sanderson, C. McConaghy, A. E. Coombs A. Moodie, J. Casely, T. Newton, J. W. Forhan, W. Hulse. Vice-President, P. G. Savage, M. Boyle, J. H. Sanderson, H. A. Nicholls, T. F. McMahon, G. McDonald, A. J. Hume, W. R. Proctor, W. Munshaw, H. F. Hopper, D. Boyle, F. J. Johnston.

The annual meeting of the Vaughan Reform Association was held in the Town Hall, Vellore, on Thursday last. The President, Mr. D. McDonald, was in the chair, and the different parts of the township were well represented.

The election of officers resulted as follows: President, Roger Harvey; 1st Vice-President, R. M. Hadwin; 2nd Vice-President, Henry Creighton; Treasurer, John McKinnon; Secretary Frank Smith. Chairmen of the several polling sub-divisions: No. 1, W. H. Clubine; No. 2, J. S. McNair; No. 3, Wm. Dunn; No. 4, Wm. Thomas; No. 5, James A. Stevenson; No. 6, James McLean; No. 7, William Wood Jr.; No. 8, William Thomas. Short speeches were made by the officers and Messrs. G. W. High, A. Bryson, N. J. Stong, M. Naughton, T. Porter, John R. Campbell, J. H. Kirby, J. Boyle, W. Watson and I. Devins.

The committee of ladies in connection with the W.M.S. received the pound offering yesterday afternoon, and while a good number responded to the call, we are sure more would have done so if they realized how much it is needed. There were several other families to whom baskets would have been sent had the contributions held out. As it was 17 families received baskets. The thanks of the committee are extended to all who contributed to the offering with all the compliments of the season.

The law of supply and demand as interpreted by farmers: "The government must supply what we demand."

ALBERTA COAL How Ontario People Can Help Themselves

By buying Alberta coal, Ontario householders will be providing more work for Canadian miners, who will then be able to buy more Canadian-manufactured goods, many of which are produced in the factories of Ontario. These manufactured articles are carried over Canadian railway lines to Western Canada, thereby providing still additional work for Canadian railway employees.

Canada sends across the line to the United States thirty million dollars a year for domestic coal alone: the type of coal Ontario employes use to heat their homes. This is in addition to thirty millions sent across the line for bituminous steam coal.

If one half of the thirty million dollars sent from Canada to the United States each year for domestic coal were diverted to Canadian mines, the effect on business conditions in Western Canada would be tremendous and this would soon be reflected in Ontario.

The argument heretofore advanced by some that the price of Alberta coal was too close to the price of American anthracite has been swept away. To-day the very best Alberta domestic coals for furnace use can be bought in Ontario at from \$11.00 to \$13.00 per ton. The retail prices vary slightly in different centres due to delivery costs, overhead and the like and due to a slight difference in the various coals at the mines. In Richmond Hill the price is \$12.00 per ton. So that there is now available in Ontario a good Canadian domestic fuel at anywhere from two to three and a half dollars per ton less than imported fuels of a similar class.

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Only a half dozen words--
But we mean 'em

Happy, Bright and
Prosperous New Year

BILL NEAL

Richmond Hill Phone 210

To one and all
the compliments of this
Festive Season.

H. P. TROWELL

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